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FROM THE FUND GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE SILSBEE HALE
AND
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REMARKS

OF

GEORGE S. HALE, ESQ.

PRESIDENT OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

AT A

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,

HELD ON OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF

HON. JOSIAH QUINCY,

JULY 6, 1864.



BOSTON:

J. E. FARWELL AND COMPANY, PRINTERS TO THE CITY,

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Harvard College Library

Apr. 25, 1921

George S. Hale

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, July 7, 1864.

ORDERED: That the President be requested to furnish a copy of the tribute paid by him to the memory of the Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, at the meeting of the Common Council, upon the 6th inst., that the same may be printed and bound with the City Documents.

Attest:

W. P. GREGG,
Clerk of the Common Council.



CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, July 6, 1864.

A special meeting of the Common Council was held this forenoon, at the call of His Honor the Mayor, to take action on papers from the Board of Aldermen relative to the death of Ex-Mayor QUINCY. The President, GEORGE S. HALE, Esq., read the Message of the Mayor to the City Council, announcing the death of Mr. QUINCY, and the Resolutions of the Board of Aldermen in relation thereto.

Before giving the papers a second reading, President HALE paid the following

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE DECEASED.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMON COUNCIL: —

I trust it will not seem to you otherwise than fitting that your presiding officer should add a few spoken words to this recorded testimonial of respect and regret.

I cannot hope, indeed, that I am able to express fitly the reverence, the admiration, and the sense of loss, mingled yet with gratification and pride, with which our thoughts turn to the venerated dead.

His life, indeed, has been one of rare felicity. For, although it began, as it has ended, in the midst of events which try the souls of men, yet its active course has been through a period of great national growth and prosperity. The century of years and honors which has just closed, has seemed for him like a long summer's day, without a cloud on its brightness, — whose last moment shows the descending sun in full-orbed glory, just as it sinks below the horizon. A generation of men has passed since his name became historical; and "Heaven has bounteously lengthened out" his days, so that his long life has been for us a golden chain, binding us to those whom we honored as the founders of the Nation. This reverence, and this respect for his worth, this pride and gratification at the possession of such a character, is not, therefore, all our own. He belongs to the Country, — not wholly to the State, or the City which gave him birth and honors, — honors which he has well returned. For myself, — for I am proud to say, like Cato,

"Livium senem etiam vidi," —

I should recur with pleasure to the years spent under his guidance in the neighboring University, where I remember so well the daily sight of that grand and massive face; and the smile which spread, like the Aurora in a northern sky, over a countenance where somewhat of sternness mingled with the clear light of a vigorous mind.

But I leave it to others to enumerate all of his public and private merits. It is of his connection with the

city which he loved and served that, here and now, it is proper to speak. In this relation he is wholly our own. And never, surely, have dignified and pure fidelity to justice, truth, and duty, high purposes, untiring energy, a wise and far-seeing judgment, been united with so much ability to give us his equal in the performance of civic duties. His prolonged service in the early years of our existence as a city impressed upon its government that character which others, inspirited by his example, have since sought to maintain; and while we feel to-day the benefit of wise measures which he accomplished, year after year has brought us, taught by experience, to the adoption of others, which he urged without immediate success. And, as a striking and significant illustration of this, I cannot forbear to remind you that the first meeting of the new Board of Overseers of the Poor, reorganized upon the plan which he urged thirty-nine years ago, with his characteristic energy and vigor, although unsuccessfully, — in which he felt so deep an interest that, more than a quarter of a century afterwards, he committed the earnest reiteration of his confident opinion to a permanent historical work, — was held within a short time after his death, while, as some in old times have believed, his spirit yet hovered over the scenes of its temporal life, awaiting the rites of sepulture.

It is surely fitting, then, that we should turn from the performance of those duties in which we follow him with unequal steps, to look back for a moment upon the example which he left us, to give, by the honors we pay to his memory, a new pledge of fidelity to those duties, a new promise to labor for the accom-

plishment of the proud wish with which, thirty-four years ago, he closed an eloquent commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of our municipal existence:

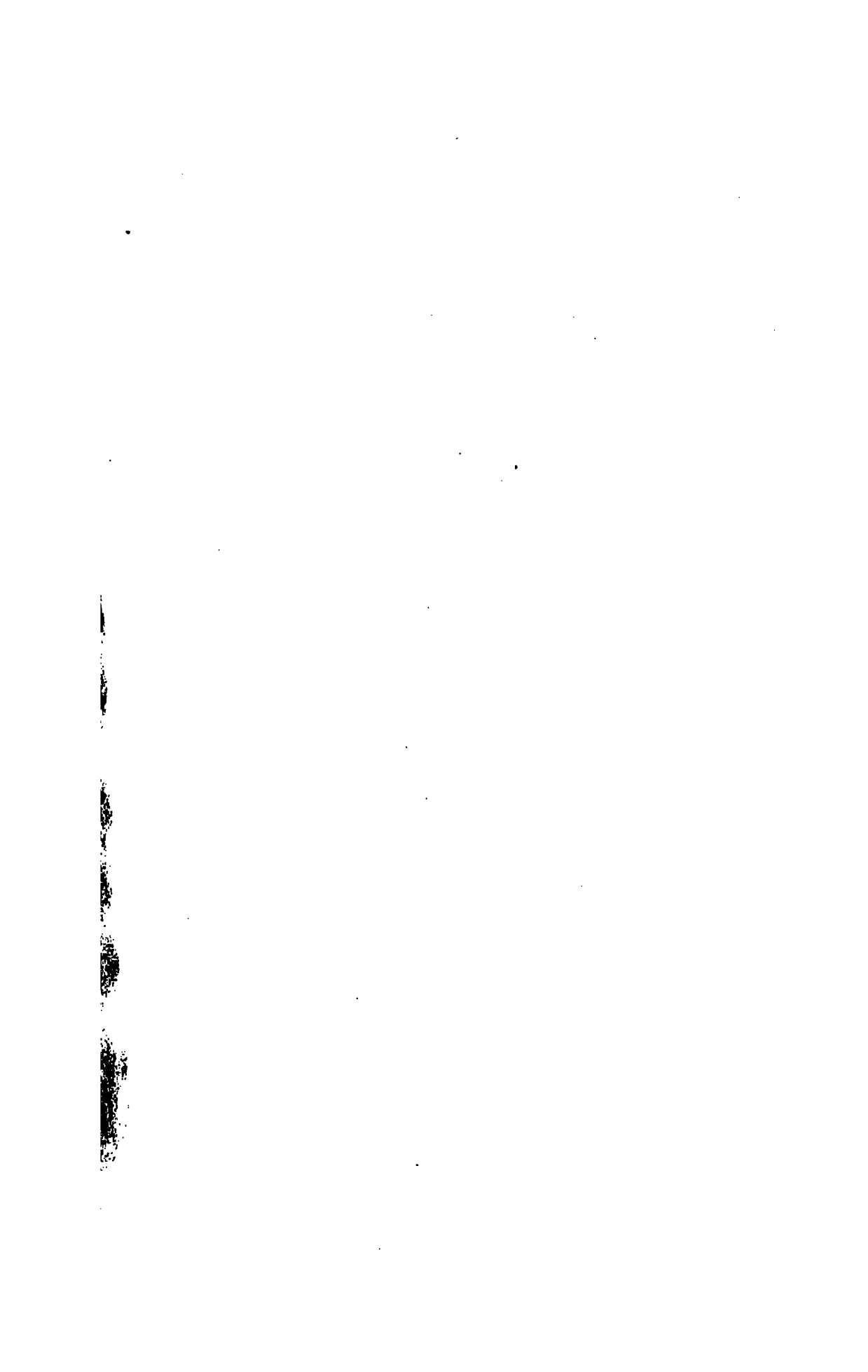
“In all times to come as in all times past, may Boston be among the foremost and the boldest to exemplify and uphold whatever constitutes the prosperity, the happiness, and the glory of New England.”

But I cannot close with this as his last or most earnest wish. Although his affections might have lingered, yet I know they would not have stayed upon the narrow neck of land which he thus cherished. I would rather believe that the last wish and prophecy of his life turned to the renewed glory of his whole country, and that he said in his heart to us, as the Patriarch of God's chosen people, “Israel, said unto Joseph, Behold I die, but God shall be with you, and bring you again into the land of your Fathers.”

At the close of the President's Address, the Resolutions from the Board of Aldermen were passed unanimously, every member present rising in his place and voting therefor.

And the President, and Messrs. WADSWORTH, FITCH, CUMSTON, COOLIDGE, and BRADLEE, having been joined to the Committee of the Board of Aldermen, to take such further measures as might comport with the proprieties of the occasion, the Common Council adjourned to attend the funeral.









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